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Haircut and Singe Tell All—Marks branded on shaved heads with burning incense proclaim calling of two young Chinese monks. To their Yunnan mountaintop monastery pious pilgrims trudge along a steep, rocky path to celebrate the Chinese New Year (Bulletin No. 4) and other religious holidays.

JOHN GUTMANN FROM PIX

to foreign markets. There are rich deposits of coal and iron ore, though inadequate for all the manufacturing needs of populous Western Europe.

On the other hand, little more than half the total land area is suitable for farming or grazing. The Alps and Pyrenees carve many regions into isolated valleys and plains. Many countries must import a large part of their food. Great Britain imports more than half its needs.

Western Europe is an area of some 1,238,000 square miles. It lies westward from a line stretching approximately from Stettin on the Baltic Sea south to Trieste on the Adriatic. To the east, the Iron Curtain encircles the Soviet Union and its satellites.

Some 20 countries, including offshore Ireland, the United Kingdom, and Iceland, compose Western Europe. They range in size from the tiny states of Monaco and San Marino to France, Spain, and Sweden. They form one of the major pools of world population, with 274,000,000 people. The United States, with considerably more than twice the area, has 114,000,000 fewer people. The Soviet Union has 81,000,000 fewer in an area seven times as large.

Contrary to popular belief, Western Europe's major industrial plants did not all suffer severe bomb damage or destruction in World War II. In some instances, production facilities were actually expanded. Coal and steel production was sharply curtailed, of course, by repeated aerial raids on the teeming Ruhr and Saar districts, and transportation lines were shattered. France alone lost one fourth of its locomotives and one fifth of its railway cars.

United States Plays Vital Role—To help revitalize Western Europe, the United States has advanced $34,000,000,000 in economic and military aid since 1945. New factories have risen in more than a dozen countries. Transportation and communication lines have been restored. Harbors have been cleared. In 1953 the European Coal and Steel Community produced 247,000,000 tons of coal and about 40,000,000 tons of steel. Industries involved in the coalition employ 1,750,000 people, one tenth of the combined labor force of the six member nations.

The project involves operations totaling almost $6,000,000,000 annually and represents about fifteen per cent of the total industrial capacity of the six countries. The combine was initiated in 1949 and became effective August, 1952. A tax of less than one per cent on coal and steel production finances its operating costs. Headquarters are in Luxembourg.

References—The countries composing Western Europe may be located on the National Geographic Society's maps of Europe and the Near East, and Western Europe. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

See also, in *The National Geographic Magazine*, September, 1953, "In the London of the New Queen"; "Paris, Home Town of the World," June, 1952; "Thumbs Up Round the North Sea's Rim," May, 1952; "Iceland Tapestry" and "Berlin, Island in a Soviet Sea," November, 1951; and many other articles listed under the names of various European countries in the *Cumulative Index to the National Geographic Magazine. (Issues of The Magazine 12 months old or less are available to schools and libraries at a specially discounted price of 50¢ a copy. Earlier issues sell for 65¢ a copy through 1946; $1.00, 1930-1945; $2.00, 1912-1929. Write for prices of issues prior to 1912.)*

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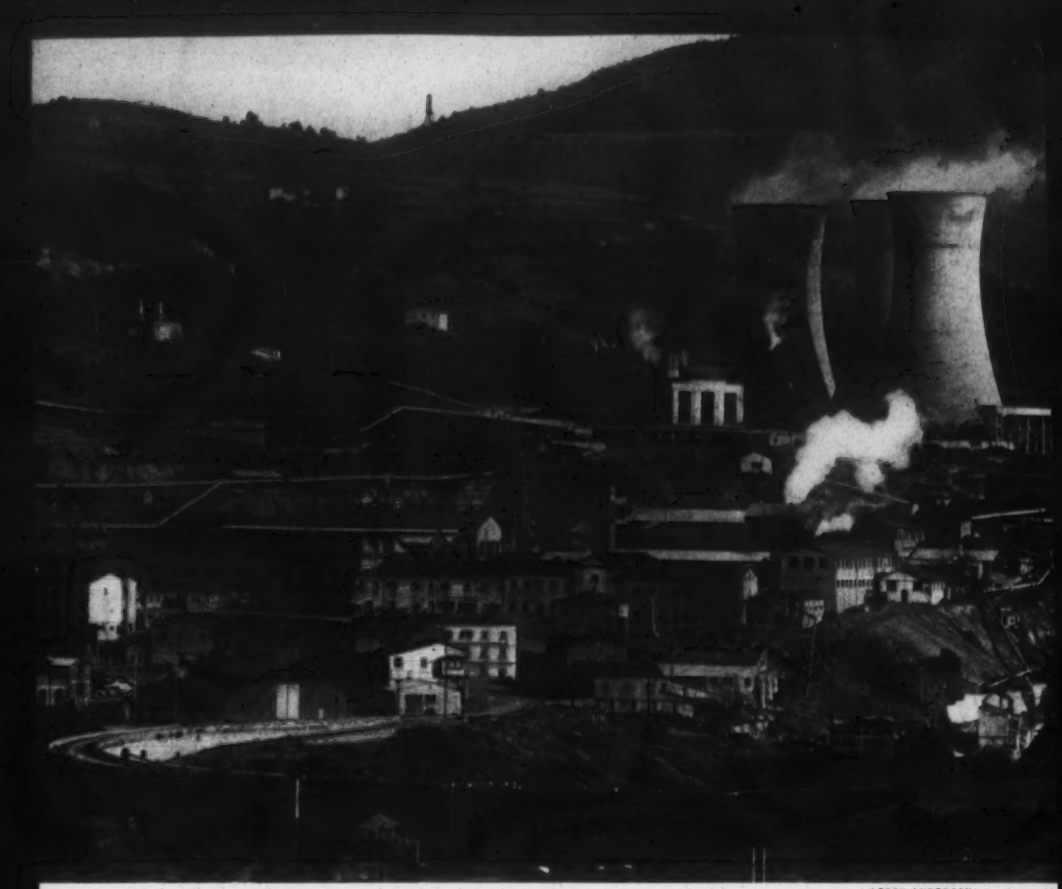

LEROY ANDERSON

Electricity from Earth's Steam—Italy, virtually coalless, depends on water power for seven eighths of her electricity. Most of the rest is generated by this drought-proof natural-power plant in Larderello Valley. Huge spool-shaped condensers cool volcanic steam to water. Water is purified, then reheated by more volcanic steam. Purified steam drives generators. Borax is a by-product of purification.

Bulletin No. 1, March 1, 1954

Western Europe's Industries Hum

Eight years ago few would have believed that Western Europe's industries by now would be producing two fifths more than their prewar average. "Little Europe's" new goal of 50,000,000 tons of steel a year points up this remarkable economic recovery.

The term "Little Europe" is now often applied to the six nations joined in the European Coal and Steel Community. They are France, Western Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Italy.

By scrapping steel tariffs and establishing a single market among themselves for their coal, iron, and steel, the six have made the Schuman plan a reality. But the industrial comeback is shared generally by European countries west of the Iron Curtain.

Farmland Scarce—Western Europe's economy is historically geared to industry rather than to agriculture. A large and skilled labor force is readily available. Many well-equipped ports can ship finished goods

status by the giver of the ceremony, for himself or for his descendants. Such occasions as the naming of a child, a son's arrival at man's estate, a memorial service, the building of a home, or the erection of a totem pole called for a potlatch.

Feasting, singing, and costumed dramatic performances accompanied the giving. But although a host temporarily impoverished himself and his family by stripping his house of nearly every possession, reimbursement was assured. To gain social status in turn, his guests were obliged to return gifts with interest at their own potlatches.

Social position depended on wealth in the fjords and valleys of the coast, but wealth accumulated by the chiefs was more than personal. It represented the holdings of his entire group, for which he acted as representative and banker.

Values were expressed in terms of woolen blankets, and "coppers." These were large shield-shaped plaques of copper, painted and engraved. A highly rated copper might be worth 7,500 blankets, and its acquisition from a rival tribe was another occasion for an elaborate ceremony. Its value grew with each sale.

Abundant Land—Before civilization touched them, Northwest Indian tribes enjoyed an abundance of foodstuffs and raw materials. Successive waves of salmon from spring to autumn populated channels from Seattle to Skagway. Great runs of oolachon, or candlefish, yielded butter and oil equivalents. Halibut, herring, seals, and sea lions were numerous. Dense rain forests provided a wealth of game and timber.

European influence on the coast began with Russian exploitation of the Aleutians in the 1760's and the later arrival of Captain James Cook at Vancouver Island. Carving improved after iron tools were introduced by the Russians. Tribes began outdoing each other in turning out carved houseposts. Soon the housepost reached higher than the roof. Next it was erected as a detached mast. Thus was launched the 19th century's totem-pole art.

Fortune and Misfortune—Contact with Europeans opened a lucrative fur trade for the Indians, but it brought misfortune as well. Smallpox and tuberculosis epidemics ravaged the tribes. Whole villages died out. The sea otter soon became extinct, and competition in fur trapping and fishing caused economic hardships. By 1875 disease and starvation had reduced the coastal tribes to less than a fourth of their numbers a century earlier.

The increasing extravagance of potlatch ceremonies in a period of uncertainty involved chiefs in obligations which led to bitter disputes and petty warfare. Some chiefs committed suicide or made war to vindicate their honor, rather than face the shame of not paying their potlatch debts. At the beginning of the 20th century, the true potlatch was practiced only in the most remote valleys by a few isolated clans.

References—The Society's maps of Canada, Alaska & Greenland, and Northwestern United States show areas inhabited by the Nootka, Tsimshian, and other Indian tribes with whom the potlatch originated.

For further information, see "Indians of the Far West," in *The National Geographic Magazine*, February, 1948; and "Indians of Our North Pacific Coast," January, 1945.

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Bulletin No. 2, March 1, 1954

Indian Givers Revive Potlatch

An Indian giver, as everyone knows, is one who expects his gifts to be returned or to be replaced by gifts as good or better.

The original Indian givers—those probably responsible for the term earning a place in dictionaries—were the tribes of the Pacific Northwest in the 19th century and earlier. When they gave they expected better gifts in return. Their big winter "potlatch" ceremonies outdid anything thought up since in give-away, give-back programs.

Totem Pole Tribes—The potlatch custom belonged to the Haida, Kwakiutl, Nootka, Tsimshian, and other tribes along the coast from Oregon to Alaska. It waned with Indian cultural life as the first white explorers reached the region. With it waned the totem-pole art (illustration, back cover) peculiar to these same tribes.

Mustached Nootka Chiefs—Unlike most American Indians who pluck their scanty whiskers, braves of the potlatch tribes have wiry beards and raise mustaches. Gay Chilkat blankets of old were woven of mountain-goat wool mixed with cedar bark, dogs' hair, and feathers.

HAROLD FLEMING

Within recent years, however, features of the potlatch have been revived by these Pacific Coast Indians as a gesture to a colorful past. Radios, sewing machines, kitchenware, and other modern gadgets replace the food, furs, blankets, and canoes which characterized early giving. At potlatches today, Christian Indians bestow trade goods bought with hard-earned wages.

The word potlatch, taken from the Chinook jargon of the region, is a corruption of the Nootka *patshatl*, which means "giving." In early days the clan chiefs took turns as hosts at lavish feasts at which they distributed gifts to the guests.

The idea behind it all was the acquiring of rank and social

creating the Organization of American States. Purpose of the O.A.S., as it is known for the sake of brevity, is to coordinate numerous independent commissions which had previously handled a wide range of technical problems of the 21 governments.

Each member-government in the Organization of American States participates on an equal footing with every other government. Each vote carries the same weight regardless of the voting country's size. Decisions are reached by a simple majority, except in a few instances where a two-thirds vote is specified. There is no veto.

The periodic Inter-American Conference, now convening, remains "the supreme organ of the O.A.S., deciding general action and policy." The Council of the Organization, its permanent executive body, is composed of 21 ambassadors, who are entirely apart from the regular ambassadors exchanged between states. The Pan American Union provides headquarters.

Regular and special meetings of technical boards and commissions continue to resolve mutual problems. Such problems may range from public housing to tariffs, from farm methods to international law, from cultural affairs to national defense.

Already credited to the cooperative action of the Inter-American Conference and the O.A.S. are the Pan American Highway, extension of voting privileges to women in some member-countries, improved health and sanitation, and education sharply reducing illiteracy.

South of the Border—Between the Rio Grande and Antarctica, Latin America is nearly three times the size of the United States, with about the same population. Brazil alone is slightly larger than the 48 States. El Salvador, of Middle America's seven-nation span, has less than half the area of Maine.

Smallest of all is Maryland-sized Haiti, which shares living room on mountainous Hispaniola Island with the Dominican Republic. These, together with neighboring Cuba, are the three offshore members.

Most of South America's ten republics share the towering heights of the Andes. This snow-mantled range, projecting eastward spurs across Venezuela and towering 23,081 feet at Mt. Aconcagua, Argentina, challenges free movement by road and rail between east and west.

Several cities and towns are cradled in lofty valleys, which provide a large share of the continent's mineral wealth. La Paz, Bolivia's capital, a city of 321,000, lies at 12,000 feet.

Spanish is the official language of Latin America, with two exceptions. Brazilians speak Portuguese. Haiti, the world's oldest Negro republic, clings to French.

Much of Latin America remains little explored, and is inhabited by wild beasts or scattered Indian tribes. It contains four of the Western Hemisphere's ten largest cities, however, in Mexico City, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, and São Paulo.

References—Countries comprising the Organization of American States may be located on the Society's map of the world, or, in larger scale, on its maps of North America, South America, and Mexico and Central America.

For information on these countries, refer to entries under Central America, North America, South America, and West Indies, in the *Cumulative Index to the National Geographic Magazine.*

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J. A. REY, COURTESY TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Spick-and-Span Conference Site Greets Delegates—University City is the new home of Venezuela's Caracas University. Its twelve-story library (right) houses offices and committee rooms of the current Inter-American Conference. Delegates in ribbed-roof auditorium (center) can select from simultaneous speech translations in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French.

Bulletin No. 3, March 1, 1954

American Republics Confer in Caracas

March comes in like a lamb in tropical Caracas, Venezuela. There, representatives of the 21 American Republics convene today (March 1) to open the Tenth Inter-American Conference.

For the next few weeks the Venezuelan capital, an expanding city of 700,000 people, will be host to a thousand official visitors—the Conference delegates and their staffs. Worthy objective of the meetings is the promotion of mutual understanding and cooperation among the 20 Latin American Republics and the United States.

Meetings will be held in gleaming buildings of suburban University City, new home of Caracas University. As birthplace of Simón Bolívar, South American "Liberator" and patriot, Caracas is an appropriate meeting site, for Bolívar in his day visualized a cooperative organization of free American states.

Born in Washington—The First International Conference of American States convened April 14, 1890, in Washington, D. C. It established the International Bureau of the American Republics, which later became the Pan American Union. It arranged for conferences every five years.

The current meeting is the first since 1948. That conference, the ninth, held at Bogotá, Colombia, took an important forward step by

The dragon, for instance, though a wicked medieval monster in the West, is a beneficent creature to the Chinese. With the tiger it represents the world's two great forces. The dragon is "Lord of the Water," the tiger "Lord of the Land."

China's rat is the emblem of timidity and meanness, the sheep of a quiet, retired life. The ox favors the farmer. The short-lived rabbit oddly stands for long life; its year is a popular one for getting married, having children, or changing jobs.

The soothsayers are of mixed opinions about the years of the Monkey, Fowl, Dog, and Pig. The influence of these animals may augur good or bad luck, wealth or poverty.

Gregorian Calendar Official—Based on lunar or moon-phase observations, China's old calendar was out of step with the widely used Gregorian calculations, adjusted to sun time. After adopting the West's Gregorian calendar forty-two years ago, the Chinese Government made it unlawful to publish or use any other.

But the Chinese people continued to go by their time-honored system of animal symbolism. Millions of farmers and city dwellers still set the course of their daily lives, from haircuts to marriage, by its omens and portents. Planting, harvesting, and festivals are guided by it.

Though the Gregorian calendar calls January 1 the beginning of every year, most Chinese, at home or abroad, celebrate their old-style New Year on a date that may fall anywhere between January 20 and February 19.

Communist China officially uses the Gregorian calendar, but allows publication of the traditional one. A new calendar issued recently for the Year of the Horse shows a horse of a red color.

The communist leaders, using the familiar layout of the old almanac, have retailored text and illustrations along Red propaganda lines.

The former conglomeration of superstitions, hints on farming and homemaking, plus such practical information as summaries of government regulations, has been either slanted in treatment or replaced by promotion of communist economic and social programs. For the calendar itself, corresponding dates are given for both sun and moon calculations.

References—For additional information on the Chinese, see "Hong Kong Hangs On," in *The National Geographic Magazine*, February, 1954; "Trawling the China Seas," March, 1950; "Power Comes Back to Peiping," September, 1949; "Along the Yangtze, Main Street of China," March, 1948; "Today on the China Coast," February, 1945; "I Lived on Formosa," January, 1945; "6,000 Miles over the Roads of Free China," March, 1944 (out of print; refer to your school or public library).

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SIUKEE MACK

Twin Dragons Take the Field—Admiring throngs stand spellbound as friendly dragons writhe their way on human legs through a Chinese festival. The dragon is a feature of Chinese parades even in such off seasons as the current Year of the Horse.

Bulletin No. 4, March 1, 1954

Chinese Welcome Year of the Horse

China's picturesque old calendar, officially abandoned in 1912 with the establishment of the Republic, refuses to give up. When the old-calendar New Year arrived on February 3, Chinese communities all over the world celebrated with parades, firecrackers, and feasting.

The day ushered in the Year of the Horse, a happier-omened period than the Year of the Snake that preceded it. The horse, symbol of speed and perseverance, presages fast-moving, constructive events. The snake, a sign of evil and cunning, provokes fear and distrust tinged with awe of its power.

The Orient's zodiac calendar is credited to the ancient reign of Huang Ti, the Yellow Emperor. It runs in 60-year cycles. These are divided into five subcycles of twelve years each known as the Twelve Terrestrial Branches.

Calendar Zoo—Each of these branches is named for a different animal. The first is the Year of the Rat and it is succeeded in turn by the years of the Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Fowl, Dog, and Pig.

Each of the calendar beasts has its special role in Chinese mythology.

DRAWN BY ARTHUR J. HAZES

Inchcape Rock Lies off Scotland's Firth-dented Coast—Since 1811 its beacon tower has served to "warn the crawling cargo-tanks of Bremen, Leith, and Hull," and ports the world around, as they carry freight to and from the firths of Forth and Tay.

Destroyed by Earthquake—One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, Pharos took its name from the small island on which it was built. It was destroyed by an earthquake in the 14th century, but its name became a designation for all lighthouses.

During their occupation of Britain, the Romans built a pharos on each side of the English Channel. The ruins of the one at Dover still stand within the fortifications of the ancient English port. The remains of the other are a relic of Roman rule at Boulogne, France.

For centuries the beacons were lighted by wood or coal fires built on grates at the top. This ancient type lingered off the English coast until 1822 and along Baltic shores until 1846.

From their beginning, American lights burned wicks in oil. Acetylene gas still lights many beacons, but electric lamps have long been used.

References—The original and the present sites of Inchcape Light may be located on the Society's maps of The British Isles, and Canada, Alaska & Greenland.

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Bulletin No. 5, March 1, 1954

Inchcape Light Flashes on New World Shores

In the mind's eye of succeeding generations of school children, Ralph the Rover and the Abbot of Aberbrothok are still engaged in a grim struggle over Inchcape Bell, a sounding device to warn sailors of a rock just below the surface of the North Sea off Dundee, Scotland.

Actually the bell immortalized by Robert Southey in his famous ballad "The Inchcape Rock" long since was replaced by a light which itself was moved in 1842 to Newfoundland's Cape Bonavista. The tower which held the beacon rises 117 feet above the treacherous waters and now flashes a more modern light.

Today's seamen give thanks to the United Kingdom's lighthouse service for the guardian signal just as earlier mariners "blessed the Abbot of Aberbrothok." But Ralph the Rover, a pirate, walked his deck and

> His heart was mirthful to excess;
> But the Rover's mirth was wickedness.

To "plague the Abbot," he cut the float and "down sank the bell with a gurgling sound." Later, laden with loot, the brigand tried to make port in a thick haze and his "vessel strikes with a shivering shock."

> But, even in his dying fear,
> One dreadful sound he seemed to hear,—
> A sound as if, with the Inchcape Bell
> The Devil below was ringing his knell.

Cabot Landfall—Inchcape's old lamp continues its career at a station almost as famous as its Scottish one. Cape Bonavista is a rocky finger thrust into the Atlantic north of St. John's, the capital of Newfoundland. It is thought by a few historians to be the first North American land sighted by John Cabot in 1497.

The old Inchcape Light's gleaming reflectors were made in Birmingham, England, in 1816. They replaced an earlier light on the Inchcape Rock, where the first lighthouse was begun in 1807 and lighted in 1811.

The red sandstone rock, surrounded by shoals, rises above the sea at low tide but high spring tides submerge it 16 feet. Many ships have been wrecked there. The rock is as famous in engineering annals as it is in balladry. The building of the lighthouse by Robert Stevenson, engineer and grandfather of author Robert Louis Stevenson, was a notable feat.

Tides and Storms Hampered Work—Work on the foundation was possible only at low tide and each stone was carefully dovetailed to interlock with the adjoining masonry. During the construction, North Sea storms caused much damage to add to the builder's difficulties.

Stevenson became superintendent of Scotland's lighthouses and by 1843, seven years before he died, he had built 23. He is credited with the invention of the flashing beacon, which he devised by darkening strips of the glass that revolved around the light.

Lighthouses built to warn sailors off sunken rocks and reefs and to guide them to port have a history of more than 2,000 years. The Pharos of Alexandria (Egypt) lighted Mediterranean mariners.

(SEE BULLETIN NO. 2) AMOS BURG

Living Trees Became "Family Trees" in Totem-pole Art—Early Indians of the Pacific Northwest carved grave posts and center houseposts. Their carving improved after Russians introduced iron tools about 1760. Tribes, competing, glorified the house-post, finally made it a detached mast depicting mythological ancestors. The art waxed and waned in the 19th century. These stand in Sitka National Monument, Alaska.